

NEWS RELEASE

Campbell County Office of Emergency Management
P.O. Box153
Alexandria, KY 41001

For more information contact:
William R. Turner, Director
859-635-1111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexandria, KY — February 23, 2010 — If you hear tornado sirens going off this Tuesday (March 2nd, 2010), don't be alarmed. Then again, don't ignore them, either -- they're a reminder that tornado season is only weeks away in Campbell County.

This **Tuesday, March 2nd**, a state-wide tornado drill will run at approximately 10:07 a.m., with schools, businesses and households encouraged to test their safety plans. The tornado drill will also coincide with a test of local Outdoor Warning Sirens, Weather Service Radio Alerts, and the Emergency Alert System. The tests are all part of this year's Severe Weather Awareness Month, which was proclaimed by the Campbell County Fiscal Court for March 2010 in an effort to educate the public on storm safety. Communities all around Kentucky plan to participate in the statewide severe weather drill - as part of Kentucky Severe Weather Awareness Month.

William Ray Turner, director of the Campbell County Office of Emergency Management says "know what to listen for... A **Tornado Watch** is issued when tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. A **Tornado Warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Move to your predestinated place of safety."

A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1500 injuries. Tornadoes can occur anywhere at any time of the year. In our region, peak tornado occurrence is in March through May.

Turner noted that Campbell Countians should stay informed of weather conditions by tuning into local radio and television stations or by listening to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest tornado watches and warnings. Remember, tornadoes occasionally develop in areas in which a severe thunderstorm watch or warning is in effect, so listen for that information as well. Remain alert!